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EXAMINER

QIN, YIXING

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/010,303

Applicant(s)

DAVIS ET AL.

Examiner

Yixing Qin

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

In response to applicant's amendment received 3/3/06, all requested changes have been entered.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Regarding claim 1, the amended claims call for a file with a native data format is stored on a local computer and then sent to a remote computer to be printed while maintaining this native data format. The attorney alleges that the Okimoto et al reference does not teach/suggest this. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. It is true that in S120 of Okimoto that document data is converted into PDL. This PDL file is capable of being sent remotely. One interpretation can be that the PDL is the native format that is stored on the local computer. Okimoto et al discloses in column 111, lines 60-65 that the print data (which is in the PDL format) is stored as a set of file data in RAM 133. Column 11, lines 66-67 and column 12, lines 1-15 discloses how a print mail transmission utility 31a facilitates the transferring of the file data to a remote location. Column 14, lines 42-48 indicate that the print data is sent as an attachment in an email. This indicates that the computer receiving the mail will obtain print data in a PDL format.

Regarding claim 4, the argument is that neither Okimoto et al nor Lobiondo discloses or suggests the determination of the availability of a printer before sending print data to it. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Lobiondo does indeed suggest the determination of oh a printer's availability before printing a document on it. Specifically, column 5, lines 34-44 disclose that the scheduler 50 can provide printing at

a desired location or specific printer if desired (e.g. a local printer) Lines 37-40 discloses that "...if unavailable, can select alternative printers 10 located near the predetermined location. If none are available, the scheduler 50 can select a remote location for printing." Lobiondo does not explicitly disclose the use of a list of printers, but, as stated in the abstract, the scheduler utilizes the total complex of available local and/or remote printers. This means that the scheduler of Lobiondo "knows" the complete set of printers available for printing an arbitrary job. The use of a list is conventional and is an easy way to visually display available printers to an user. The Gase et al reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,580,177) is merely cited to show a list of printers.

Regarding claim 11, the argument is that Okimoto does not disclose or suggest the idea sending a print request signal to a destination computer in response to a polling signal. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Column 15, lines 27-41 of Okimoto et al discloses that the print mail reception utility 31b access the POP server 38 (one can see that the POP server 38 is in the mail server 24 in Fig. 3) to check for incoming mail. This is essentially a polling signal since polling is defined as a request for data from one device to another. In this case the print mail reception utility 31b requests new mail from the POP server 38.

Regarding claim 16, the Examiner agrees that the Okimoto et al reference does not disclose or suggest a printer enabled signal. However, a newly cited reference, Bain et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,434) discloses the polling of printers in order to print a

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job. Okimoto et al combined with Bain et al suggest the various features of claim 16 and it's dependent claims. Please see the rejection below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

I. Claims 1-3, 11-15, 28-31, 33-39 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Okimoto et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,160,631

**Claim 1.** Okimoto discloses “A system for remote printing (Fig. 1), comprising:”  
a local computer having at least one document stored thereon, said document being associated with at least one native data format, (column 11, lines 33-42 and lines 60-65 show the storage of print data in a PDL format – i.e. the native format) said local computer adapted:

for accepting a print request associated with said document; (column 11, lines 42-43 – “print” or “mail” are two printing request options)

a remote printer; and (Fig. 1 – printers 14, 16, 18)

a remote computer, associated with said remote printer and adapted for receiving said print request and, (Fig. 1 – computers 10, 12, column 15, lines 3-13 discloses the transferring of print mail over the Internet)

in response to said receiving of said print request, automatically causing said at least one document to be printed on said remote printer; (column 5, lines 34-36)

wherein said at least one native data format of said document is maintained in said document printed by said remote computer on said remote printer. (as discloses in column 5, lines 34-36, the print data is printed at the remote computer “B”. From column 11, lines 33-42 above, this print data is in the PDL format, meaning that the native format of PDL is maintained.

**Claim 2.** Okimoto discloses “The system of claim 1, further comprising a relay computer (mail server 24, 26 of Fig. 1), configured and adapted to:”

receive said print request from said local computer; and  
send said print request to said remote computer. (Fig. 1 of Okimoto shows two mail server, whose tasks are to relay the mail messages from one computer to another. Column 14, lines 28-35 discloses that an user inputs print settings and a mail header is created according to these settings to be sent to a remote computer – one could also interpret the mail sent to the remote computer as a print request since the header contains information requesting the printing of print data attached to the mail)

**Claim 3.** Okimoto discloses “The system of claim 2, wherein said remote computer:  
periodically polls said relay computer to determine whether one or more of said print requests intended for said remote printer are waiting to be sent; and  
if said one or more print requests are waiting to be sent, retrieving said print requests, and printing the documents associated with said print requests on said remote printer.” (Okimoto discloses in Figs. 8 and 10 and column 15, lines 21-45 the idea of checking for new mail from a POP server 38 in the mail server and that is repeated at a certain interval (column 15, lines 29-31). The new mail is then sent to the mail reception utility 31b.

**Claim 11.** Okimoto discloses “A method for printing a document, comprising the steps of:”  
receiving from a source computer a request to print a document; (column 15, lines 3-12 – the print request is the print mail data 50)

accepting a polling signal from a destination computer; (Figs. 8 and 10 and column 15, lines 21-45 disclose the idea of checking for new mail from a POP server 38 in the mail server and that is repeated at a certain interval (column 15, lines 29-31).

responding to said polling signal by sending said print request to said destination computer for printing on a printer that is directly connected or LAN-connected to said destination computer; (column 15, lines 34-41 disclose that the POP server 38 responds by sending the new mail to the print mail reception utility 31b of computer 10).

receiving a print result signal from said destination computer; and  
sending said print result signal to said source computer. (Fig. 11 , items S660, S670 and S680 the idea of sending a return mail to a computer that wanted to cancel a job to be printed. Please see column 18, lines 37-52 for further description. This means that a print job result is received (i.e. if job is canceled, printed, etc) and sent to the creator of the cancel job mail (i.e. the source computer).

**Claim 12.** Okimoto discloses "The method of claim 11, wherein said print request comprises document data and printing parameters." (column 14, lines 27-48 discloses the creation of a print mail by combining header information with the print data).

**Claim 13.** Okimoto discloses "The method of claim 11, wherein said print request comprises document data in a format not directly printable by said printer." (The print



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mail format, which one can see in Fig. 17 contains document data that is not readily printable.)

**Claim 14.** Okimoto discloses “The method of claim 13, wherein said format is a word processing application data format.” (column 11, lines 3-5 discloses that the application that issues a print command can be a word processor or a spreadsheet program.)

**Claim 15.** Okimoto discloses “The method of claim 13, wherein said format is a spreadsheet application data format.” (column 11, lines 3-5 discloses that the application that issues a print command can be a word processor or a spreadsheet program.)

**Claim 28.** This claim has been addressed in claim 1 above. In regards to the second limitation of receiving data in a format other than the native format, Okimoto discloses in Fig. 17 the format of a print mail. One can see there is envelope and header data that is also sent to the remote printer. This data is in a format that is not the native PDL format.

**Claim 29.** Okimoto discloses “The system of claim 28, wherein said remote printer is directly connected to said remote computer.” (Fig. 1 shows printer 6 directly connected to PC 4)

**Claim 30.** Okimoto discloses “The system of claim 28, wherein said remote printer is coupled to said remote computer through a network”. (Fig. 1 shows printers 14,16,18 through a network to PC 10, 12)

**Claim 31.** Okimoto discloses “The system of claim 28, further comprising:  
a relay computer coupled to said local computer and said remote computer to receive said at least one document in said native data format from said local computer and provide said at least one document in said native data format to said remote computer.”  
(Fig. 1 of Okimoto shows two mail server, whose tasks are to relay the mail messages from one computer to another. Column 14, lines 28-35 discloses that an user inputs print settings and a mail header is created according to these settings to be sent to a remote computer – one could also interpret the mail sent to the remote computer as a print request since the header contains information requesting the printing of print data attached to the mail)

**Claim 34.** Okimoto discloses “This claim has been addressed in claim 31 above.  
wherein said at least one document can be in one of a plurality of native data formats, wherein said remote computer operates with said remote printer for each of said plurality of native data formats, and wherein said remote printer receives data in a format other than any of said plurality of native data formats.” (Fig. 17 discloses a mail message format that is received by the destination printer. The format of the mail is

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different than the native data format that was generated as print data in the source computer).

**Claim 35.** This claim has been addressed in claim 14 above. (one can read the print mail transmission utility 31a and the print mail reception utility 31b as the application for generating a document and the application for printing the document – see Fig. 3)

Claim 36. This claim has been addressed in claim 28 above.

Claim 37. This claim has been addressed in claim 29 above.

Claim 38. This claim has been addressed in claim 30 above.

Claim 39. This claim has been addressed in claim 31 above.

Claim 41. This claim has been addressed in claim 31 above.

**II.** Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bain et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,434 – “Bain”)

**Claim 16.** Bain discloses "A method for printing a document, comprising the step of:"  
receiving from a source computer a request to print a document; (column 3, lines 44-48 – a job can originate from a host computer 15)  
detecting a printer-enabled signal associated with a remote printer; and (column 10, lines 8-25).  
in response to said detecting, sending said print request to said remote printer that is neither directly connected nor LAN-connected to said source computer. (column 10, lines 38-47)

**Claim 17.** Bain discloses "The method of claim 16, wherein said receiving, detecting, and sending are performed by a relay server." (the receiving, detecting and sending are performed by the microprocessor 19 of the PC 14. One can see in Fig. 1 that PC 14 acts as a relay server between the host computer 15 and the printers).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

III. Claims 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194) in view of Gase et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,580,177 – “Gase”).

**Claim 4.** A system, comprising:

The Lobiondo reference discloses a method for distributed printing.

It does not explicitly disclose “a network maintaining a list comprising at least one local printer and at least one remote printer;”

However, Gase discloses in Fig. 2, item 52 a list of printers available for printing on a network

Lobiondo and Gase are combinable because they are both in the art of printing to printer(s) on a network

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined Lobiondo and Gase

The motivation would have been to enable an easy way to visually display available printers to an user .

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Lobiondo and Gase to obtain the invention as specified in claim 4.

Lobiondo discloses "a local computer, connectable to said at least one local printer, and in communication with said at least one remote printer via said network, (Fig. 1, item 30 are workstations) said local computer adapted to"

accept a request to print a document; in response to said accepting, (column 4, lines 30-34)

detecting whether a local printer from said list is available to print said document; in response to said detecting indicating that no local printer is available, detecting whether a remote printer from said list is available to print said document. and

in response to said detecting indicating that a remote printer is available, printing said document on said remote printer. (column 5, lines 34-44)

**Claim 5.** Lobiondo discloses "The system of claim 4, wherein said at least one local printers is directly connected to said local computer." (Fig. 1 shows a printer 10 attached to a workstation 30 as one entity).

**Claim 6.** Lobiondo discloses "The system of claim 4, wherein said at least one local printers is connected to said local computer through a local-area network." (Fig. 1 shows a printer 10 attached to a workstation 30).

**Claim 7.** Lobiondo discloses "The system of claim 4, further comprising a remote computer in communication with said local computer, and wherein said at least one remote printer is connectable to said local computer through said remote computer."

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(Fig. 1 item 60 is a print server, and one can see the various printers 10 attached to the print server)

**Claim 8.** The Lobiondo reference discloses "The system of claim 7, wherein said at least one remote printer is directly connected to said remote computer." (Fig. 1, item 60 is connected to a workstation 30 and printer 10).

**Claim 9.** The Lobiondo reference discloses a method for distributed printing.

It does not explicitly disclose "The system of claim 4, wherein said list further comprises printer identifier information for at least one printers in said list."

However, Gase discloses in Fig. 2, item 52 a list of printers available for printing on a network and the identifier is the name of the printer.

Lobiondo and Gase are combinable because they are both in the art of printing to printer(s) on a network

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined Lobiondo and Gase

The motivation would have been to enable an easy way to visually display available printers to an user.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Lobiondo and Gase to obtain the invention as specified in claim 9.

**Claim 10.** The Lobiondo reference discloses a method for distributed printing.

It does not explicitly disclose "The system of claim 4, wherein said list further comprises a group identifier for at least one of said printers in said list."

However, Gase discloses in Fig. 2, item 52 a list of printers available for printing on a network and the group identifier can be the MAILQUEUE or NETROOT printers since those seem to identify a group printer to be shared on the network.

Lobiondo and Gase are combinable because they are both in the art of printing to printer(s) on a network

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined Lobiondo and Gase

The motivation would have been to enable an easy way to visually display available printers to an user.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Lobiondo and Gase to obtain the invention as specified in claim 11.

**IV.** Claims 18-21, 23-26 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bain et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,434 – "Bain") in view of Okimoto et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,160,631).

**Claim 18.** The method of claim 17, wherein:



The Bain reference discloses that the PC 14 poll the printer directly.

It does not explicitly disclose "said enabling signal is a polling signal detected from a destination computer; and said sending comprises transmitting said print request to said destination computer for printing."

However, Okimoto discloses in Fig. 1 that PC 10 and 12 are connected to a plurality of printers 14, 16 and 18. Again, from claim 11 above, the Okimoto reference discloses a form of polling by checking mail using the destination computers 10 or 12. This would suggest that it could send other types of polling signals such as a printer-enable signal of Bain.

Bain and Okimoto are combinable because they are both in the art of distributing a print job to a remote printer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have improved Bain's invention by having a computer connected to the polled printer.

The motivation would have been to have an invention with a larger storage space using a PC to hold print data as opposed to using a printer, which usually has a smaller memory.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Bain and Okimoto to obtain the invention as specified in claim 18.

**Claim 19.** The Bain reference discloses a system for polling printers and remotely printing a document.

It does not explicitly disclose "receiving a print result signal from said destination computer; and sending said print result signal to said source computer."

However, Okimoto discloses in Fig. 11 , items S660, S670 and S680 the idea of sending a return mail to a computer that wanted to cancel a job to be printed. Please see column 18, lines 37-52 for further description. This means that a print job result is received (i.e. if job is canceled, printed, etc) and sent to the creator of the cancel job mail (i.e. the source computer).

Bain and Okimoto are combinable because they are both in the art of distributing a print job to a remote printer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have improved Bain's invention to have a print result signal.

The motivation would have been to enable an user to know that the job was properly printed.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Bain and Okimoto to obtain the invention as specified in claim 19.

**Claim 20.** The Bain reference discloses a system for polling printers and remotely printing a document.

It does not explicitly disclose "The method of claim 16, wherein said print request comprises printable data and envelope data."

However, Okimoto discloses in Fig. 17 a print mail message that include envelope and print data. Please also see column 14, lines 49-66 and column 7, lines 1-30 describe the make-up of the three types of mails.

Bain and Okimoto are combinable because they are both in the art of distributing a print job to a remote printer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have improved Bain's invention to use a document including envelope and print data.

The motivation would have been to allow a printer to properly print a document according to a user's specifications.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Bain and Okimoto to obtain the invention as specified in claim 20.

**Claim 21.** This claim has been addressed in claim 20 above.

**Claim 23.** The Bain reference discloses in column 4, lines 36-40 that an user can pick a queue for the users print job.

It does not explicitly disclose "wherein said remote printer is selected from a plurality of remote printers before said receiving."

However, Okimoto discloses in Figs. 14a and b that print selection occurs to select a desired printer. Also, Okimoto discloses in column 5, lines 64-67 that both computer systems can perform printer selection, which would indicate that a source

computer system can select a printer before the destination computer receives the print mail.

Bain and Okimoto are combinable because they are both in the art of distributing a print job to a remote printer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have allowed the ability to choose a printer before a job is sent.

The motivation would have been to allow an user to select a predetermined printer and to know if that printer will be able to print a job before printing a job..

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Bain and Okimoto to obtain the invention as specified in claim 23.

**Claim 24.** Bain discloses "The method of claim 16, wherein said remote printer is selected from a plurality of remote printers after said receiving." (column 10, lines 31-47).

**Claim 25.** The Bain reference discloses in column 4, lines 36-40 that an user can pick a queue for the users print job.

It does not explicitly disclose "said print request is originated by a user associated with a user identifier; and said remote printer is selected from a plurality of remote printers based on said user identifier."

However, Okimoto discloses in Fig. 19 of Okimoto that an Internet printing agent program has a print mail job associated with an user. As shown in claim 23 above, Figs. 14a and b show two different criteria in which to choose a printer.

Bain and Okimoto are combinable because they are both in the art of distributing a print job to a remote printer.

Networked printing environments are known to have users with different privileges and therefore, would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use an user id (such as a user name) in determining which printers to use.

The motivation would have been to allow an user to be properly identified so that a printer is indeed print a job from a correct user.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Bain and Okimoto to obtain the invention as specified in claim 25.

**Claim 26.** The Bain reference discloses in column 4, lines 36-40 that an user can pick a queue for the users print job.

It does not explicitly disclose "said source computer has a network address; and said remote printer is selected from a plurality of remote printers based on said network address."

However, networked computers inherently need a network address in order for other components on the network to identify and to communicate with it. Similar to the rejection above to claim 25, a particular computer with a particular network address

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could only have certain privileges like certain users. Thus, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use an a network address in determining which printers to use.

Bain and Okimoto are combinable because they are both in the art of distributing a print job to a remote printer.

The motivation would have been to allow a printer to be properly identified.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Bain and Okimoto to obtain the invention as specified in claim 23.

**V.** Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bain et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,434) in view Okimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,160,631) and further in view of Greenstein (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,692).

**Claim 22.** The Okimoto reference discloses various email header data in Fig. 17.

Neither Bain nor does not explicitly disclose "said envelope data comprises authentication information."

However, Greenstein, discloses in the abstract, lines 1-6 that an email header contains a password so that a recipient knows the email is not spam

Bain, Okimoto and Greenstein are combinable because they are in the art of relaying information. Greenstein is cited just to show that emails are known to have password/authentication information embedded into it

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have created a document message with authentication information.

The motivation would have been to enable a printer or a server to make sure that a proper document is to be printed.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Bain, Okimoto and Greenstein to obtain the invention as specified in claim 22.

**VI.** Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bain in view of Okimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,160,631) in view of Gase et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,580,177)

**Claim 27.** The Bain and Okimoto reference discloses the selection of printers, but does not go into detail about an user interface.

It does not explicitly disclose "exposing a user interface to a user at said source computer; displaying a list of available remote printers through said user interface; selecting an available remote printer by said user through said -user interface; and transmitting said selection with the print request."

However, Gase discloses in Fig. 2 and column 4, lines 55-59 that one can select printers using a list.

Bain, Okimoto and Gase are combinable because they are in the art of printing to a remote location.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used an user interface like that of Gase to enable an user to select an appropriate printer to print to.

The motivation would have been to make it easy for an user to choose a printer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Bain, Okimoto and Gase to obtain the invention as specified in claim 27.

**VII.** Claims 32, 33 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,160,631) and in view of Greenstein (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,692).

**Claims 32,33 and 40.** The system of claim 31 (28),

Okimoto does not explicitly disclose "wherein the user of said local computer is authenticated prior to said at least one document being printed on said remote printer".

However, Greenstein, discloses in the abstract, lines 1-6 that an email header contains a password so that a recipient knows the email is not spam

Okimoto and Greenstein are combinable because they are in the art of relaying information. Greenstein is cited just to show that emails are known to have



password/authentication information embedded into it. Although they are detecting for spam, the detection for an user ID would be just as obvious and is well-known in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have created a document message with authentication information.

The motivation would have been to enable a printer or a server to make sure that a proper document is to be printed.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Okimoto and Greenstein to obtain the invention as specified in the claims.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

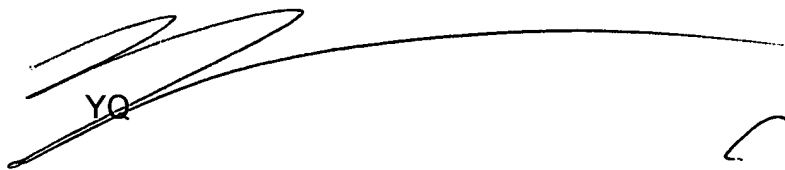
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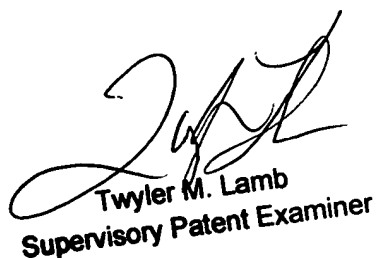
the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
YQ

  
Twyler M. Lamb  
Supervisory Patent Examiner